

Tom Horne  
Superintendent

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## ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**SUPERINTENDENT TOM HORNE URGES LEGISLATURE TO FUND \$2500  
PERMANENT PAY RAISE FOR EDUCATORS AND LIFT CONTINGENCY FUNDS  
ON ELL FUNDING**

PHOENIX (May 16, 2006) – State Superintendent of Schools Tom Horne today reacted to the Legislature’s proposed budget. Horne urges the Legislature to consider two key education priorities: a \$2500 permanent pay raise for all teachers, and removing the contingency for funding ELL.

Horne stated: “First, a \$150 million item should be added to give every educator in the state a permanent \$2,500 raise. With the projected budget surplus of \$1.9 billion, this is a reasonable addition to show that the education of our children is a priority. We have worked hard on the accountability side. We are holding our schools and our teachers accountable for results. But none of this can succeed unless we do a better job of retaining the highly qualified teachers that we have, and attracting a much greater number of talented people into teaching. The proposal for a \$2,500 increase for every educator passed the House Education Committee unanimously, every Democrat and every Republican voting for it. It is a bipartisan proposal, and is badly needed for the success of our efforts to raise academic standards in Arizona.

“Second, the bill for English language learners that passed had a provision to increase funding for English language learners. It provided that this would not take effect unless the court approved the bill. The bill is now tied up in extensive litigation, including an appeal, and a stay on appeal. This is not the fault of the schools, and they need to know how much money they have for educating English language learners next year. I am requesting that the legislature remove the clause that makes the funding dependent on court approval, and appropriate those English language learner funds, without condition.”

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